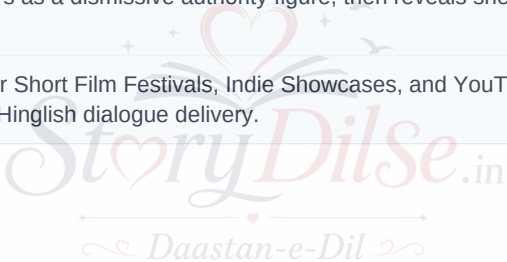


DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE LOCKED WARDROBE

1 Male + 2 Female (M + F + F) | Genre: Horror/Supernatural | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A nervous tenant discovers a locked wardrobe that seems to cry from within, only to learn it contains a mirrored room with another version of his reality. As the landlord's buried secret surfaces, the bedroom itself begins to multiply its horrors.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: claustrophobic, amber-lit, shadow-heavy horror with practical darkness that feels alive. • Thematic depth: fear of hidden spaces, suppressed guilt, and the idea that some warnings are not protection but containment. • Pacing: slow-burn tension through silence, tiny sound cues, and incremental reveals, then a sharp escalation at the wardrobe opening. • Camera language: restrained, observational framing that tightens as the room becomes less stable. • Horror style: supernatural dread over gore; the terror comes from spatial impossibility and the final shadow reveal.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Armaan age: 37 look: Plain T-shirt, anxious posture, flashlight always in hand, visibly sleep-deprived and reactive. dramatic_arc: Begins as a skeptical, irritated tenant trying to rationalize the sound, then shifts into panic and helpless awe when the wardrobe reveals an impossible duplicate room. • character: Suhana age: 28 look: Sleepwear with a cardigan thrown over it, casual at first, then increasingly alert and unsettled. dramatic_arc: Starts with dry humor and disbelief, becomes the first to validate the haunting, and ends in stunned fear at the mirrored room. • character: Mrs. D'Souza age: 64 look: Housecoat, stern posture, controlled movements, face that hardens when questioned and cracks under old guilt. dramatic_arc: Enters as a dismissive authority figure, then reveals she knows the wardrobe's history, and finally shows fear rooted in long-held secrecy.
FESTIVAL & AUDIENCE TARGET: Ideal for Short Film Festivals, Indie Showcases, and YouTube Creator Channels. Focus on tight performances, sound design, and authentic Hinglish dialogue delivery.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

Build a small rented bedroom with a cramped footprint and low ceiling feel. The room should have one single bedside lamp, a slightly moving curtain with a subtle draft source, and a large old wooden wardrobe placed in a corner so it dominates the frame. The wardrobe must feel heavy, aged, and slightly warped, with visible wood grain and a lock that can be seen clearly in close-up. Walls should be plain and slightly worn, with textures that catch amber light unevenly. The bed should be simple and practical, with enough space to stage the mirrored-room reveal visually. Corners should be dark enough to deepen as the scene progresses, creating the sense that the room is shrinking. For the wardrobe interior reveal, construct a matching duplicate room set or partial mirrored extension with identical wallpaper, lamp, bed, and curtains to preserve the impossible spatial logic.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Armaan:** Plain T-shirt in neutral tones; continuity note: keep sweat and tension marks minimal at first, then slightly dampened collar and forehead sheen after the first scare.
- **Suhana:** Sleepwear under a cardigan; continuity note: cardigan remains on throughout, with hair and posture becoming less casual as the scene escalates.
- **Mrs. D'Souza:** Housecoat with a stern, lived-in look; continuity note: keep her appearance controlled and unchanged, emphasizing her emotional restraint.

3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS):

- **prop:** Single bedside lamp | **details:** Warm amber practical light source, capable of visible flicker during the wardrobe opening.
- **prop:** Flashlight | **details:** Handheld beam used by Armaan to inspect the wardrobe lock and later illuminate the room.
- **prop:** Old wooden wardrobe | **details:** Large, aged, corner-placed wardrobe with visible lock, heavy door, and a believable creak on opening.
- **prop:** Wardrobe key | **details:** Old key found under the wardrobe; must look distinct from a normal room key.
- **prop:** Curtains | **details:** Light fabric that responds to a draft and becomes more active as tension rises.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic and grounded. Armaan should show mild under-eye fatigue, then increasing sweat and facial tension. Suhana should begin fresh and casual, then show subtle fear response: widened eyes, tightened jaw, slight pallor. Mrs. D'Souza should remain composed but with a faintly aged, stern realism. For supernatural effect, use lighting reaction makeup only: shine control on foreheads, slight moisture on upper lip, and shadow-friendly contouring to deepen eye sockets under amber light.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Armaan:** {'super_objective': 'To regain control of his space and prove he is not imagining the threat.', 'subtext': 'He is embarrassed by fear and tries to mask panic with sarcasm and logic.'}
- **Suhana:** {'super_objective': 'To determine whether the haunting is real while maintaining emotional distance.', 'subtext': 'Her humor is a defense mechanism that collapses once the evidence becomes undeniable.'}
- **Mrs. D'Souza:** {'super_objective': 'To keep the buried truth contained and prevent the wardrobe from being opened.', 'subtext': 'Her authority is built on secrecy, and her fear comes from guilt as much as from the supernatural.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

ARMAAN

((under his breath))

Nahi... yeh sound normal nahi hai.

ARMAAN

Arre yaar... lock andar se kaun lagata hai?

SUHANA

Kya hua? Itni raat ko flashlight leke ghost-hunting?

SUHANA

((half-smile))

Haan, wardrobe ne bhi rent dena start kar diya kya?

MRS. D'SOUZA

Itni raat ko tamasha?



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use restrained, intimate framing with a preference for medium close-ups, over-the-shoulder tension, and slow push-ins. Start with wider room geography to establish the wardrobe's dominance, then progressively compress the frame as the supernatural pressure increases. Favor a handheld or subtly floating camera only at moments of shock, while keeping most movement minimal and deliberate. Lenses should feel slightly long enough to flatten the room and make the wardrobe seem closer than it should be. The final reveal should use a controlled, almost clinical hold so the impossible image lands without visual distraction.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Establishment - low amber bedside lamp as the primary source, with deep practical shadows in corners and soft falloff on faces.

Tier 2: Investigation - flashlight beam adds hard directional contrast, carving the wardrobe lock, key, and faces with sharp highlights.

Tier 3: Supernatural escalation - lamp flicker, stronger curtain movement, and deeper shadow density during the wardrobe opening and mirrored-room reveal, with the final corner shadow left barely readable.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the scene around room tone, faint curtain rustle, and the subtle creak of old wood. The crying should begin as a soft, distant sobbing from inside the wardrobe, then become more tactile and close as the tension rises. Use the lock click, wardrobe thud, and door creak as key horror punctuation. The mirrored-room reveal should briefly drop ambient texture into an unnerving near-silence before the final sobbing breath. Keep the acoustic profile dry and intimate, as if the room is too small to contain the sound.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Amber-heavy LUT with muted browns, dirty golds, and deep shadow blacks. Skin tones should remain warm but slightly drained as fear increases. The wardrobe wood should hold rich texture in highlights while the corners fall into near-black. Avoid saturated colors; the palette should feel old, stale, and airless, with the final reveal leaning slightly colder in perceived contrast to heighten the uncanny effect.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, wardrobe placement, lamp and curtain rigging	Art, Grip, Camera
09:30 - 10:30	Lighting setup and flicker test	Gaffer, Camera, Electric
10:30 - 11:15	Rehearsal for dialogue beats and wardrobe blocking	Director, Cast, Camera
11:15 - 12:00	Shoot investigation and Suhana entrance coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:00 - 13:00	Shoot Mrs. D'Souza entrance and exposition	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 14:00	Shoot wardrobe thud, opening, and mirrored-room reveal	Camera, Art, VFX, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real bedroom and dress it carefully to feel smaller than it is. Build the wardrobe interior reveal as a partial duplicate set with only the visible sections needed for camera. Keep the lamp practical and let it do most of the work. Use a simple curtain draft from a hidden fan. Shoot the mirrored-room reveal with locked-off framing and matched composition instead of expensive effects. Keep wardrobe sound effects practical and layered in post. Use shadow and blocking to imply more space than you actually build.

• **Mandatory Licensing:** Completely free for student/commercial production with on-screen credit: 'Story & Screenplay by Story Dil Se (storydilse.in)'.

